



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 3, 2007



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

For Information Contact Public Affairs
WYN HORNBUCKLE
Telephone: (602) 514-7625
Cell: (602) 525-2681

CENTRAL PHOENIX FELON SENTENCED TO 92 MONTHS PRISON FOR FIREARM AND METHAMPHETAMINE SALE

PHOENIX – On May 2, 2007, Louis Glenn Taravella, 40, of Phoenix, was sentenced here to 92 months in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Mary H. Murguia. Taravella had pleaded guilty on March 21, 2006 to the charges of Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine and Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Taravella is one of several individuals prosecuted under Operation Suppressor. In this particular operation, undercover Phoenix Police Department Detectives and Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives identified subjects engaged in illegal firearms and narcotics trafficking in Central Phoenix. On July 20, 2005, Taravella sold methamphetamine and a stolen handgun to undercover law enforcement. Taravella has a total of five felony convictions in Arizona, including Robbery and Burglary. Operation Suppressor is part of the District of Arizona's Project Safe Neighborhoods, an illegal firearms enforcement program

The effectiveness of Project Safe Neighborhoods in Arizona is based on the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to cooperate in a unified offensive that is led by the U.S. Attorney. Through ongoing partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, like the one in this case, the U.S. Attorney is implementing a series of strategies that are contoured to fit the specific firearms crime problems throughout Arizona.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Phoenix Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution was handled by Michael Lee, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0924-PHX-MHM
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-121(Taravella)

###